

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing device identifiers, the method comprising:

providing a set of device entries at a server;

generating a unique device identifier for each of the set of device entries; and

associating correlation data with each of the set of device entries, wherein the correlation data includes a device type and user data.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining one of the set of device entries based on correlation data for a particular device.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a request from the particular device for an assigned device identifier, wherein the request includes correlation data for the particular device; and

communicating the device identifier for the one of the set of device entries to the particular device.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein each of the set of device entries further includes a status.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the status for the obtained one of the set of device entries indicates that the device identifier is unused.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising setting the status to indicate that the device identifier for the device entry is pending after communicating the device identifier.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

receiving an acknowledgment from the particular device for the communicated device identifier; and

setting the status to indicate that the device identifier for the device entry is in use after receiving the acknowledgment.

8. The method of claim 3, further comprising generating a new device entry based on the received correlation data for the particular device.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the user data includes at least one of: a user name, a password, a personal identification number, and a passkey.

10. A method of assigning a device identifier, the method comprising:

providing a set of device entries at a server, wherein each device entry includes a device identifier and correlation data;

receiving a request from a device, wherein the request includes correlation data for the device;

identifying one of the set of device entries by comparing the correlation data in the request to the correlation data in the set of device entries; and

communicating the device identifier from the one of the set of device entries to the device.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising receiving an acknowledgment from the device for the communicated identifier.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the device entry further includes a status, the method further comprising setting the status to indicate that the device entry is in use after receiving the acknowledgment.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

obtaining user data for a user; and

generating at least one of the set of device entries using the user data for the user before the request is received.

14. A system for managing device identifiers, the system comprising:

a management system for managing a set of device entries at a server, wherein the management system includes:

a generation system for generating a unique device identifier for each of the set of device entries; and

an entry update system for associating correlation data with each of the set of device entries, wherein the correlation data includes a device type and user data.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the management system further includes a data input system for obtaining correlation data for a user and generating at least one of the set of device entries using the correlation data for the user.

16. The system of claim 14, further comprising a communication system for communicating with a device.

17. The system of claim 14, further comprising a comparison system for obtaining one of the set of device entries based on correlation data for a particular device.

18. The system of claim 14, further including a verification system for verifying correlation data received from a particular device.

19. A program product stored on a recordable medium for managing device identifiers, which when executed comprises:

program code for automatically generating a unique device identifier for each of a set of device entries; and

program code for associating correlation data with each of the set of device entries, wherein the correlation data includes a device type and user data.

20. The program product of claim 19, further comprising program code for communicating the device identifier of one of the set of device entries to a particular device.

21. The program product of claim 19, further comprising:

program code for receiving a request from the particular device, wherein the request includes correlation data for the particular device;

program code for verifying the correlation data for the particular device; and

program code for identifying one of the set of device entries by comparing the correlation data in the request to the correlation data in the set of device entries.

22. The program product of claim 19, further comprising:

program code for obtaining user data for a user; and

program code for generating at least one of the set of device entries using the user data for the user.